
<< Reading: <MANAGE>ANNUAL-REPORT./78-JL-VALEDICTION;1 3223[7]
3,25-May-78 14:18:50,25-May-78 14:18:50,25-May-78 14:21:38

.
Valediction

(Personal remarks by J. Lederberg)

While Ed Feigenbaum and I cheerfully accept the full responsibility that is entailed by our roles as co-investigators of this resource project, we are embarrassingly aware how much of the effort has been the work of others. Choices for praise are always invidious, but I have no difficulty in singling out Tom Rindfleisch as the one person who deserves the most particular credit for the success of this program. His technical insight and finesse in the system design and implementation, and in the management of the resource staff are measured by the visible efficiencies and clarity of documentation of the resource. He is also preeminently responsible for the drafting of these reports and for managing our fortunes through all the complexities of federal and university accountability, and our obligations to local and national users.

Tom Tom would be the first to insist on acknowledging the dedicated support of the administrative, programming and engineering staffs: I mention Carole Miller, Rainer Schulz, and Nick Veizades as representatives of the veterans who have been part of SUMEX-AIM from its inception, and of the most conscientious team of my experience.

Ed For my own role, I have leaned heavily on my friend and associate, Ed Feigenbaum, and it is gratifying to be so confident that the work we started together in building SUMEX-AIM will continue under his able stewardship. Elliott Levinthal and Bruce Buchanan did a great deal to make all this possible, and to make the tasks that Ed and I will have taken on not just manageable but fun. Carl Djerassi, in chemistry, was an indispensable fomentor of the scientific collaborations. Stan Cohen is making an equally great contribution, both by succeeding me as chairman of the genetics department, and by his continued promulgation of MYCIN and by serving as coordinator for medical school research interests in SUMEX.

But this list would eventually embrace a large part of Stanford University, a network of personal and interdisciplinary connections that constitutes a seamless web, a treasure for my own experience and recollection, -- but one that is perforce hard to fairly acknowledge, and even harder to sever myself from.

Fortunately, the communications net offers a way to soften that severance, and I will seek every opportunity to use it to stay in the closest contact with the affairs of SUMEX-AIM that the duties of my new situation allow. My continued association with Stanford and with SUMEX-AIM ought to be a self-exemplifying demonstration of the capabilities for community-building and for sustaining the human relationships in scientific effort that have been our highest hopes for these new, high technologies.

The realism of these expectations has been substantially tested already the way that the executive committee of SUMEX-AIM, already dispersed throughout the country, the user community, and Bill Baker and his colleagues at NIH/BRB, have been able to work together effectively and constructively in making this enterprise truly a national resource.

I look forward to continuing to be a part of a team like that!
